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THE A. L. A. AT STATE CONFERENCES

Four or five years ago the American library association instituted the practice of having an officer or an officially appointed delegate represent the association at the various state library association meetings. This delegate generally is requested to speak on some pertinent phase of library activity, by no means limiting the remarks to the field or activity of the American library association, but these visits have more or less directly been the means of emphasizing the work of the A. L. A., placing it before the attention of librarians and letting them know of the service in various lines which the national association stands ready to offer. In addition to the address which has appeared on the program the A. L. A. speaker generally has taken more or less part in the informal discussions of the conference, and in those cases where the Secretary of the association has been the representative, a brief statement of the work and needs of the association has generally been presented. As the A. L. A. at present has unfortunately too small a budget to meet the travel expenses of these speakers, the state associations have in most cases done this, often out of a nearly depleted treasury. One western state containing only a handful of librarians in correspond-

ence with the executive office has expressed a willingness to meet the necessary travel expenses of a speaker up to the sum of one hundred dollars if necessary, which evidences that the service performed by these representatives has been believed to be of considerable assistance and value. The A. L. A. has been represented by an officer or an officially appointed delegate at twelve state meetings this fall, at the inauguration of a university president, and the Secretary has spoken to several library schools and represented the association on several other occasions.

The joint conference of Michigan and Ohio at Cedar Point, Ohio, Sept. 2-8, was attended by Mrs. H. L. Elmendorf, president of the American library association, who delivered an address on "Joy Reading," and by Secretary Utley, who spoke informally on the work of the A. L. A. The New York state meeting in New York City, Sept. 25-30, was also attended by both the President and the Secretary, Mrs. Elmendorf giving her address on "Joy Reading," and Secretary Utley speaking on "What the American Library Association Stands For."

Mr. J. I. Wyer, Jr. represented the A. L. A. at the state meetings of Iowa, at Mason City, Oct. 10-12; of Illinois, at Joliet, Oct.

11-13; and of Missouri at Hannibal, Oct. 18-19; delivering at each meeting an address on the subject, "What Americans Read."

Mr. Chalmers Hadley, librarian of the Denver public library, and ex-secretary of the A. L. A., was the representative of the American library association at the meeting of the Pacific northwest library association, at Victoria, B. C., Sept. 4-6, giving an address on "The Library and the Community."

Secretary Utley attended the Minnesota meeting, at Lake Minnetonka, Sept. 20-22, the Nebraska meeting at Omaha, Oct. 18-19, and the North Dakota state meeting at Jamestown, Oct. 20-21, giving at each conference an address on "Reaching the People." He also gave an address at the Indiana library trustees' association, at Indianapolis, Nov. 8th, on "The Legal and Moral Requirements of a Library Trustee."

Dr. Arthur E. Bostwick, librarian of the St. Louis public library, and ex-president of the A. L. A., will be the principal out-of-state speaker at the Alabama library association conference, at Tuscaloosa, and at the State University, November 21, 22 and 23. Dr. Bostwick will give two addresses; the first on "The Companionship of Books"; the subject of the second has not yet been announced.

Dr. Reuben G. Thwaites, of the Wisconsin state historical society, and also an ex-president of the A. L. A., officially represented the association at the inauguration of Dr. George E. Vincent, as president of the University of Minnesota, October 18th.

CHICAGO MID-WINTER MEETINGS

The usual mid-winter library meetings will be held again this year at Chicago, January 2-6, 1912. Headquarters will be at the recently opened Hotel Sherman, corner of Randolph and Clark streets, opposite the new county court house, and four blocks west of the Chicago public library. Rates for single rooms with bath are from \$2 per day up; rates for double rooms with bath (two in a room) \$3 per day up. Every room has a bath. Requests for reservations

should be made directly to the Hotel Sherman. The directors of the Chicago public library have generously placed at our disposal the directors' room, on the fifth floor of the library building, adjoining the A. L. A. headquarters. The Hotel Sherman will also provide free meeting room, and committee rooms. Hours for meetings, unless otherwise stated, will be 9:30 a. m. and 2:30 p. m.

The League of library commissions will meet Tuesday, January 2, both morning and afternoon, also on Wednesday morning, January 3, and on Thursday morning, January 4. The sessions will be in charge of the president, Miss Cornelia Marvin, secretary of the Oregon library commission. Meetings will be held in the directors' room of the public library.

The college and university librarians of the Middle West will hold their third annual meeting in Chicago, on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, January 5-6, 1912, in the directors' room of the Chicago public library. The sessions will continue to be of the same informal round-table character as heretofore. The various subjects to be discussed will be assigned to individuals who will generally not read papers, but will simply make such a statement as will most effectively start a free discussion. The arrangements for these meetings are in charge of a committee consisting of Mr. P. L. Windsor, Mr. J. C. M. Hanson, and Mr. A. S. Root. The topics to be discussed will, for the most part, be selected from the following list:

Charging systems appropriate for college libraries.

Co-operation between librarians.

Open shelves.

Relations between the faculty and the library.

Specialization in college libraries.

Standing of the college library in the institution.

Printed catalog cards.

Reserved books.

Salaries of assistants.

Pensions for college librarians.

Circulation of books to undergraduates.